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## **INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION AS THE BASIS OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING**

***Abstract.** The paper is devoted to determining the role of intercultural communication in the foreign language teaching. The formation of intercultural communication as a scientific discipline, and the indication of foreign language teaching methods are considered in the study. The most important aspect of learning a foreign language is the knowledge of cultural characteristics and traditions of the countries of the studied language.*

***Keywords:** culture, pedagogy, intercultural communication, foreign languages, methodology.*

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## **МЕЖКУЛЬТУРНАЯ КОММУНИКАЦИЯ КАК ОСНОВА ПРЕПОДАВАНИЯ ИНОСТРАННЫХ ЯЗЫКОВ**

***Аннотация.** Статья посвящена определению роли межкультурной коммуникации в преподавании иностранных языков. Рассматриваются история становления межкультурной коммуникации как научной дисциплины и методы обучения иностранным языкам. Одним из важнейших элементов изучения*

*иностранного языка является знание культурных особенностей и традиций стран изучаемого языка.*

**Ключевые слова:** *культура, преподавание, межкультурная коммуникация, иностранные языки, методика.*

## **Introduction**

Presently the process of communication between cultures is imperative for foreign language teaching (FLT). Culture is changing daily, some old traditions are forgotten, new ones are emerging and some are merged into one, that trends are need to be tracked, analysed and reflected in methods of the foreign languages teaching. The 21st century is the century of information and globalization. Nowadays tourism, social media, art, education are well-developed forms of cultural interaction. Intercultural communication is the process of interaction between different peoples. In every life sphere, there is a connection between multi-ethnic groups. In political, economic, social and cultural spheres peoples interact influencing each other's thinking. Some of the consequences of intercultural communication are changes in language or in traditions of the country's learning language, which reflect in FLT methods. From education to business and science, it is conceivable to indicate traces of another culture. In this connection, studying intercultural communication is the main part in learning foreign language. The purpose of this paper is to determine the role of intercultural communication in methods of the foreign language teaching. In the process of studying a teacher is an intermediary between the learning language's country culture and a person, who encounters a new language and a new culture. Therefore, teaching people not only languages but cultural aspects has a significant value. Successful communication is based on knowing the intercultural features, customs and traditions of another country. Thus, one cultural aspect can explain another language peculiarity. Intercultural communication develops simultaneously as the word languages.

## **Methodology**

Traditionally foreign languages were taught by reading texts. Students have studied grammar and vocabulary, which were limited by the field of their study [2].

They have not been taught to use a foreign language as a complete communication tool, to compose and generate speech. Therefore, real communication was almost impossible [5]. However, the narrow consideration of the discipline of intercultural communication in the 20th century by Edward Hall, Ray Birdwhistell and Jorge Trager was the basis for the next development of FLT methods. They have prepared politicians, diplomats and military specialists for foreign service [1]. In 1954 an anthropologist Edward Hall published the book «The Silent Language», where he described the experience, what the people had had in foreign countries. It is generally accepted that E. Hall was the first who has proposed to consider culture through the prism of communication [4]. Intercultural communication has originated in the field of FLT in the United States of America and in Russia practically simultaneously. In the USA intercultural communication became an academic discipline in the early 1970s. In Russia, the first appearance of work about intercultural communication was in 1973. It was the paper written by E. Vereshchagin and V. Kostomarov named «A Language and a Culture: Linguistic and Regional Studies in Teaching Russian as a Foreign Language» [6].

After a few years, in 2000 the textbook by S. Ter-Minasova called «Language and Intercultural communication» was published. The author defines intercultural communication as a communication between people of different cultures. S. Ter-Minasova quotes E. Vereshchagin and V. Kostomarov's paper «A language and a culture», determined intercultural communication as an adequate understanding of two participants in a communicative act, belonging to different national cultures. Foreign languages are cogitated as an instrument to interact with people of other cultures. The methods of FLT are creating an atmosphere of real communication, establishing a connection between FLT and life, actively using foreign languages in living, natural situations. It can be scientific discussions, abstracting and discussion of foreign scientific literature, studying courses on foreign language, the participation of students in international conferences, translating activities. It is necessary to develop extracurricular forms of communication: clubs, circles, open lectures in foreign languages, scientific societies of interest, where students of different specialties may

cooperate. Being informed about the culture's peculiarity of the foreign language is essential for a student. In other words, students need to know: when to say/write, how, to whom, with whom, where; what is the role of a given meaning/concept in context [5].

### **Results**

Culture cannot be taught; it can only be mastered in the process of the direct practice of intercultural communication. For this, in the educational process, special conditions should be created, which promote the mastery of the foreign language by students as effective means of intercultural communication [3]. What conditions allow being well aware of cultural norms and values, traditions of the learning language's country, besides language norms and use those peculiarities in speech. Constantly monitor dynamics of intercultural communication's development, be surrounded by a representative of other cultures and attend scientific events let improving methods of FLT, making them more modern. Students as future workers taught by modern methods may be successful in communication, being in demand in the labour market.

The role of intercultural communication in FLT is to transform the process by rational, appropriate methods, and to conform them to the fast-changed conditions in the modern world.

### **Conclusion**

Teaching foreign language and intercultural communication is important to study grammar and vocabulary as well as cultural aspects simultaneously to better understanding a language. One of the purposes of educational process is teaching to understanding, accepting and integrating specialities of different cultures. Successful communication is based not only on fluent and grammatically correct speech but on knowing features of other cultures and tolerant attitude to them.

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